

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Representative Guerrera, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 6343: An act concerning the restoration of the Housatonic Railroad line.

I am writing to you, as a resident of New York, with a second home in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, in support of updating and restoring passenger rail service through Northwest Connecticut, as described in Rep. Roberta Willis's proposed legislation HB 6343. This legislation is critical to the future of NWCT. Better train service to Connecticut from the Berkshires would decrease dependence on cars and make visiting friends in Connecticut easier. It would also make Connecticut a destination for vacations and day trips. In addition, restoring train service would also

1. Support existing businesses and increase tourism.
2. Attract young families and entrepreneurs.
3. Improve rail safety and decrease noise and vibration
4. Stimulate new local transport options and enterprises

Yours sincerely,

Barbara L. Eidler

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